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## **The California Department of Housing and Community Development Commends the Adoption of New Green Building Standards Code**

**Sacramento** – This week, after months of development by the Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Codes and Standards Division, the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) announced the unanimous adoption of the nation's first "green" building code.

The majority of the green building measure will become effective concurrently with the 2010 California Building Code

HCD collaborated with the CBSC, stakeholder groups and other state agencies to develop the residential green building standards. Staff reviewed existing green building standards, best practices, guidelines and other published materials to develop a code for new low-rise residential construction.

"The new green building standards code provides a framework and meaningful step toward reducing energy consumption and increasing our sustainability," said Director Lynn L. Jacobs. "I commend our staff for recognizing the importance of statewide building standards that reduce water use, improve air quality, conserve energy, reduce our carbon footprint and help mitigate the effects of global climate change."

The new standards include:

- Requirements for 20-percent reduction in indoor residential water use
- Sediment and runoff protection for construction sites
- Low or no VOC adhesives, paints and coatings on residential interiors
- Low formaldehyde interior finish materials
- Improved indoor air quality through the use of better A/C filters
- At least 50% waste stream reduction through reduce or recycle

- Improved homeowner or occupant information on how to properly maintain their home in an environmentally friendly fashion.

After 2010, the code will be updated annually to ensure the latest technology and methods of construction are incorporated.

“Once again, California is leading the way towards a more sustainable future. This new code provides cost-effective guidelines that will be beneficial to every home throughout the state,” Director Jacobs said.

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